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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

2. As early as 1941, and although a high school education as well as a stiff entrance examination for admission into the school of medicine (and chemistry) were required at the University of Latvia, the head of the Admissions Staff was a faculty member in name only, while a Communist party member was the final authority in such matters. Any applicant with a family background bordering on the clergy or industry, was disqualified. These included children of priests, factory owners and landowners. Nevertheless, those coming from high schools, who were qualified for admission, were required to pass exams in chemistry, physics, one foreign language (French, German or English), the Latvian language and Latin. Language exams consisted of an oral translation from the classics, reading of an article, and a written translation.
3. Qualified students were chosen from the ranks of the Komsomols, factories and collectives by the Communist party in their respective areas, based primarily on the applicant's political conformity. Prospective students were earmarked for specific fields of study by the Communist party before being admitted to a school of higher learning; upon graduation, it was required that the candidate return for employment to that area from which he or she originated.
4. The textbook situation in the University of Latvia, and in the Chemistry Department especially, was extremely bad, due to lack of paper primarily. The majority of all Soviet textbooks were translations of foreign works, without permission of the author; since these books, selected by the Ministry of Education, piled up in the over-worked Office of Translation, it was often five to six years before

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a volume was circulated into educational fields, hence little material was current. In fact, and especially in the field of physics and chemistry, Soviet textbooks were frequently based on works dating to the Czarist era, which, by Western educational standards, were still considered good, except that reproduction of graphics material was usually poor and often completely illegible. No color reproduction was known, and charts and graphs were usually blurred beyond recognition.

5. Chemistry classes, as well as other scientific student bodies, were limited to 40 members. Classes started at 0800 or 0900, six days a week, and ran until 1500, with one-half hour off for lunch. Each class lasted 45 minutes. Five years' undergraduate work was required for a degree in chemistry, whereupon the student was graduated as "Candidate", after passing a State examination. Following an additional one to three years' course of research, the student could be passed on to a Master's degree, upon successful completion of a thesis, and finally to a Doctor's degree upon submitting another thesis. There was no time element involved in the latter, which depended upon the individual's ability.
6. No private tutoring was made available to students by faculty members; however, outstanding students in a class were often assigned to those less proficient students to help them in their home work, and were often required to live in the home of the said student, thereby assuming close personal contact. A great stress was laid on home work, and such assignments were heavy and consistent. In a student's curriculum, especially chemistry and physics, great stress was laid on basic facts and very little on the theoretical. Impetus on philosophy was only stressed in the final undergraduate year, which was, of course, primarily Marxist.
7. Laboratory classes, just as the classroom, were restricted to 40 students. Equipment was poor and limited, except for glassware; almost every Soviet institution had a glass-blowing laboratory to supply these necessities.
8. Examinations were, for the most part, oral, especially in chemistry and physics; the only great exception to this was mathematics, where exams were always written. During a school year, each student had an average of 15 to 20 laboratory sessions, and exams were only given once, upon completion of the school year. Those short courses that lasted only half a year, such as zoology, gave exams at the end of six months. Grading was based on a standard of one to five, instead of one to one-hundred or the alphabetical system. A student's political standing invariably helped improve his grading, and often a student could ask for a re-examination based on a political difference he or she might claim between the individual and the professor involved.
9. Since the Soviet field of science stressed self-sufficiency within the USSR, all Communist party member professors required that a student's thesis be based on home problems (within his field) in order to develop national resources and capabilities. None of these were published privately, and only those which had no military bearing whatsoever were afforded limited publication in scientific journals. These were closely watched and carefully censored.
10. Credit hours varied, and were given individually for such courses as organic, analytic, synthetic, physical and photographic chemistry. Students were afforded two opportunities to pass an exam, and those who failed the second time were immediately returned to their place of origin.
11. As has been previously stated, every graduate from a scientific field of endeavor was returned to work in his original Komsomol or collective. However, and based on the student's political orientation and standing, outstanding students could be retained at a college or university, upon graduation, as an assistant professor in his particular field. Thus the various faculties grew from year to year. There were no postgraduate courses as we know them in the US.

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